

## News Release

# UMC Gets Green Light to Deliver all Degrees, Courses Online

By Krista Lemos, Michelle Christopherson on Tuesday, May 16, 2006

CROOKSTON, MN (May 16, 2006) - Get your higher education online at the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC), the only campus in the University of Minnesota system delivering undergraduate degrees via the Web.

Students can get an exceptional, affordable, name-brand education more conveniently than ever thanks to a recent recommendation allowing UMC to offer any traditionally provided degree program online. Currently UMC delivers the Bachelor of Applied Health online and is gearing up to go online with the Bachelor of Science in Business and the Bachelor of Manufacturing Management programs, both four-year degrees. Several individual courses are also available online, allowing for flexible scheduling even during summer session.

"By taking the classroom to the student, we are providing diverse and deserving learners greater access to high-quality baccalaureate education," said UMC Chancellor Charles H. Casey. "Expansion of online programming strengthens the University of Minnesota, Crookston commitment to adding value to the northwest region and beyond.

"A well-educated workforce is essential to sustainable community and regional vitality."

UMC's online enrollment has grown more than 250% in the past four years alone and course offerings have increased from just a handful each semester to nearly 40 courses. UMC received the preliminary go-ahead to expand online learning opportunities this spring from peer evaluators of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The HLC team recommendations are being forwarded to the HLC board for consideration and final approval is expected in October 2006. All UMC degree programs will still go through established campus and University of Minnesota system procedures before being offered online. The good news came as part of UMC's accreditation review, which netted continued full accreditation status for the next 10 years.

UMC Professor Susan Brorson, who also serves as head of the Business Dept., says online delivery is an essential component in the quest to provide optimal learning opportunities and meet the rising demand from those who find it challenging to attend courses on campus.

"The online mode of delivery allows us to respond to needs of individual students as well as corporate clients who are embracing the Internet as an educational option. Our Business Department faculty has been delivering classes online for a number of years, and this approval will now enable us to deliver all of the comprehensive components for two additional business degrees."

UMC's online Bachelor of Science in Business and the Bachelor of Manufacturing Management degrees have been approved for online delivery through the University of Minnesota Board of Regents and will be available once final HLC approvals have been secured.

UMC's online degree and courses provide a convenient and flexible alternative for working adults and part-time students who have relevant work experience and are interested in completing a four-year degree. To learn more, visit [www.UMCrookston.edu/cal](http://www.UMCrookston.edu/cal) The University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) is a four-year baccalaureate degree granting institution, dedicated to learning, discovery, and engagement in the northwest Minnesota region and beyond. To learn more, visit [www.UMCrookston.edu](http://www.UMCrookston.edu).

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